

Applicant: Roland Sacks
Application No.: 10/656,645

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14 and 15 are currently pending in this application, as amended. By this amendment, claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended, new claim 15 has been added and claim 13 has been canceled. No new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

In the Action, claims 1-9, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 371,515 to Nowotny. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a cleaning device having a distributing surface to effect a flat distribution of a cleaning or disinfectant fluid. The device includes a spray strip that has a number of outlet openings distributed along the length of the strip. The spray strip is removably fastened to the cleaning device and is formed on a profile strip that is a drawn plastic profile or plastic extrusion.

In contrast to the present invention, Nowotny discloses a scrub brush attachment in which a spray tube (I) with a series of openings is connected to a metal frame (B) which includes provisions for removably attaching a scrub brush (A). A water supply tube (K) forms the handle. In the arrangement of Nowotny, the spray tube is not removably fastened to the cleaning device based on its assembly to the metal frame as clearly shown in Figure 1. Additionally, there is no suggestion or disclosure of the spray strip being formed on a profile strip that is a drawn plastic profile or plastic extrusion so that the cleaning device can be easily formed and cut to

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length in order to provide a profile strip with the spray strip. Accordingly, claim 1 can not be anticipated by Nowotny.

Claims 2-9, 12 and 14 depend from claim 1 and are similarly patentable over Nowotny. Applicant also notes that the invention is further distinguished from Nowotny based on the recitation in claim 4 of separate fasteners being provided to hold the spray strip, with the fasteners including snap-on connections for connection to a flat side of the distributing surface opposite a bottom thereof. This is neither suggested nor disclosed by Nowotny.

Claim 6 further recites that the profile strip is removably connected to the cleaning device and includes a section with the spray strip having a tubular cross section and a formed section having a cross section in the form of a strip fastener. This is provided as the strip fastener (6) of the present invention as clearly shown in the Figure, and allows for easy attachment to an edge of the distributing surface (2). This is neither suggested nor disclosed by Nowotny as no strip fastener is disclosed since the tube (I) is held in place in openings (H) of the metal frame (B).

Claim 7 further recites that two of the profile strips are provided and are removably connected to at least two opposite sides of the distributing surface to facilitate the removable fastening of a cleaning sponge, cleaning cloth, cleaning fabric or other cleaning implement, with each of the profile strips including the strip fastener in part of a cross section thereof and at least one of the profile strips including the spray strip in a part of a cross section thereof. This allows two of the same profile

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strips to be located on opposite sides of a distributing surface to facilitate removably fastening of a cleaning sponge, cloth or other implement to the cleaning device. There is no suggestion or disclosure of two such profile strips which are removably connectable to opposite sides of a distributing surface being provided.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of claims 1-9, 12 and 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over the combination of Nowotny and U.S. Patent 5,419,015 to Garcia. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As acknowledged in the Action, Nowotny does not disclose removable attachment of a cleaning implement via a hook and loop connection. Rather, it discloses a scrub brush held in position via clamp screws (e). Garcia discloses hook and loop connections placed directly on the bottom on a distributing surface on the bottom surface (24) of the support plate (22). This is described at column 2, lines 52-56 as the "flat planar surface against which work pad 31 (Figs. 5-10) is fastened to perform whatever operation (e.g. washing, dusting, polishing, scrubbing, etc.) is to be undertaken...".

In addition to the differences between the present invention and the recited combination as noted above based on the dependency of claims 10 and 11 from claims 1 and 7, which are discussed above, claim 10 further recites the removable connection of a cleaning sponge, cleaning cloth, cleaning fabric or other implement by hook and loop

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connection to the profile strips that are removably connected to opposite sides of the distributing surface, and not directly on to the distributing surface itself as taught by Garcia. Accordingly, although Garcia discloses the use of hook and loop fasteners applied directly on a distributing surface of a cleaning implement, there is no suggestion or disclosure in either of the two references of placing hook and loop fasteners on profile strips that are removably connected to the distributing surface. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and should be similarly patentable for the reasons noted above in connection with claim 10.

If the examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the examiner's convenience.

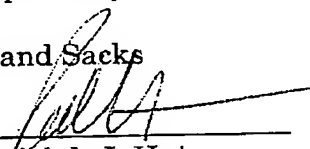
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In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1-12, 14 and 15, is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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